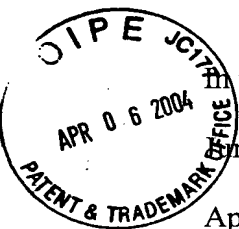


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Patent Application of:

Shin TAKEDA et al.

Application Number: 10/688,907

Filed: October 21, 2003

For: OPTICAL FIBER SPLICING  
INSTRUMENT WITH SHUTTER

Examiner Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit 2872

Confirmation No. 3754

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants are submitting herewith copies of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (modified) for consideration and to be made of record by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) in the above-captioned patent application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider these references and that the Examiner indicate that the enclosed references have been considered in this application by returning a copy of the form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609.

The European Patent Office (EPO) cited the enclosed references in a European Search Report dated March 1, 2004, for a counterpart application, and the EPO has indicated on the enclosed copy the relevance of each reference of the Search Report.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), Applicants believe that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted prior to issuance of a first Office Action on the merits.

Therefore, no fees are believed due as a result of this submission. However, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the PTO, please charge any such variance to undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Respectfully submitted,  
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Dated: April 6, 2004

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Enclosures

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